

point three

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Cambridge, Massachusetts, showing a dense urban area with a river (the Charles River) and a bridge (the Cambridge Bridge) visible on the right side. The city is surrounded by greenery and hills. The text "point three" is overlaid in blue at the top left.

May 1975 10p
Diamond Jubilee
Festival May 1975

point three



The monthly
magazine of Toc H

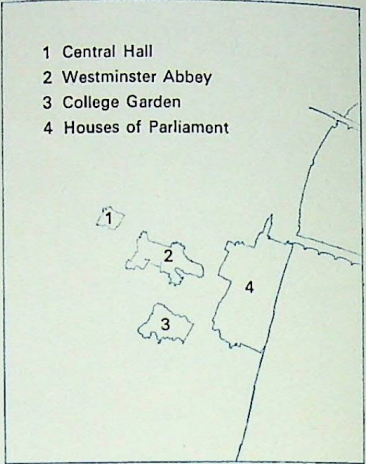
May 1975

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Opinions expressed are those of
the individual contributors and
not necessarily those of the
Toc H Movement.

- 
- 1 Central Hall
 - 2 Westminster Abbey
 - 3 College Garden
 - 4 Houses of Parliament

Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

- 1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
- 2 To give personal service.
- 3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
- 4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

view point

From Toc H with love

'The true test of a movement is its influence on those outside its membership', vowed Tubby.

If you look back to see how far the Movement's influence has spread, you find an impressive record. Look not only at the breadth of Toc H membership on the map throughout the world, but more particularly at the other movements which owe their inspiration or even their very existence to Toc H.

All sorts and conditions of men have been so fired by some infectious spirit in Toc H, so inspired by the lives of members, or impressed by Tubby's challenging conviction, that they have gone on to create or develop many of the voluntary services which are commonplace in Britain today: leprosy relief, the blood transfusion service, eye banks, hospital broadcasting. Toc H members have had more than a hand in developing Scouting, establishing Help the Aged, Oxfam, Community Service Volunteers, Shelter and the MIND campaign, and have been among the first to introduce dances for the physically handicapped and emergency alarms for the housebound.

Our past has given us good reason to be confident, to claim confidence born of success. We

know that Toc H has much to offer men, and that whatever this 'Toc H spirit' really is, it has transformed lives and made the world a more satisfying place in which to live.

The point to realise now is just how urgently the world needs that spirit; how well that initiative can be used in Britain, where all confidence and unity of effort seem to have been lost. Insecurity in industry, uncertainty as to the future—dread of all financiers—is reflected in poor investment and a corresponding chill in the City; exaggerated wage claims betray all trust between managers and managed; relations in industry are still bedevilled by suspicion, despite the genuine attempts at reconciliation; fear of redundancy is realistic and rife. The public services are suffering from a crisis of confidence; morale in education is generally low, highlighted most clearly by London's shocking pupil and teacher absenteeism; confidence is hardly any better in the health and personal social services whose organisation is tottering under the current strain.

Yet there have been worse days and the first members of the Movement had more serious problems to face. The First World War had fairly knocked

the bottom out of their world and the hardships of the Twenties are unequalled today. Members who joined Toc H in the 1920s will tell you that they joined because Toc H was actually doing something about poverty and the effects of unemployment.

The problems are more complex today, but human nature is not so very different and the spirit needed is still the same. One of the best things that Toc H can give this country now is its natural confidence in human potential, in the fact that men can be brought to trust and even to love one another. If the climate of trust which Toc H can create, the readiness to go more than half-way to understand someone, could be transferred to employer and employee, politician and practitioner, pupil and teacher, parent and child, their differences, true, would remain but would be far less destructive and divisive.

Toc H started off as very small fry. It has been built, in the last analysis, simply on conviction. May we now find the courage of our convictions to carry on the building and, in Tubby's words, 'to step out bravely in the Master's name into the wilderness of human need'.

We present the stories of some of the people taking part in the big family night at Westminster on 31 May



A new concept of liturgical ballet has been choreographed and produced by Elizabeth Twistington Higgins especially for the Toc H Diamond Jubilee Festival. This creation is all the more remarkable because Elizabeth is a polio victim who for the past 22 years has been completely paralysed from the neck down. Her story is a moving record of courage and self-discipline, told in her autobiography, *Still Life* (published in 1969 by Mowbray, London).

Elizabeth had been dancing on stage for six years when, at the age of 30, she was attacked by poliomyelitis. Within one week the polio had done its worst and she found herself encased in an iron lung. It was to be two years before she could leave the lung for any length of time, for she had to learn to breathe again by remembering to use the muscles in her neck. It took her seven months to manage 15 minutes' breathing. Now Elizabeth lives at home during the day and returns to the iron lung only at night to sleep.

It is not difficult to imagine the incredible shock of sudden immobility to someone who was so wrapped up in a dancing career. Elizabeth had been enraptured with ballet since the age of 14 when her brother had taken her to Sadler's Wells to see *Les Sylphides*. 'It was a revelation to me', she records. 'That night I decided to become a ballet dancer.'

Ballet had not always held such an attraction. There's a lovely passage in her book where Elizabeth recalls her introduction to ballet at her primary school:

Diamond Jubilee Festival

'The worst afternoon of my week was Friday when I had to go to a dancing class. This was given by a rather fierce lady, all legs and gymslip, who taught remedial exercises and gymnastics as well. I remember little else about these classes except that I was always freezing cold in my blue silk dress.'

However, Elizabeth pursued a career in dancing, trained at Sadler's Wells, qualified as a member of the Royal Academy of Dancing and went on to teach at a school of dancing in the West End. Six years on stage followed; then she decided that her real vocation lay in teaching. It was when she was busy teaching Bloomsbury children at Coram's Fields that she fell ill, one hot July.

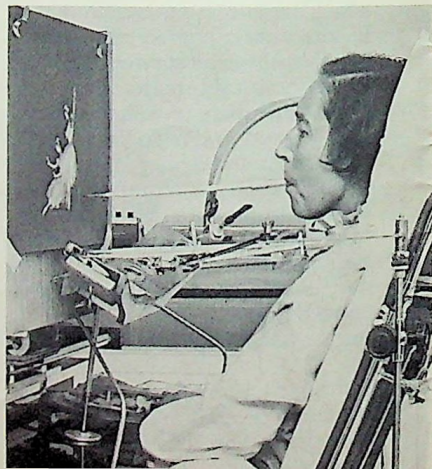
Long years follow this, first of depression and then of determination to overcome depression. 'It took', Elizabeth says, 'about four years to get over my depression and disappointment and to adjust myself to a new way of life. At first sight, ballet training would seem a most unsuitable preparation for a life of immobility, but it gave me a strength and tenacity of purpose I would not otherwise have had.'

With tremendous effort, and with the patient help of friends—sincerely acknowledged by Elizabeth—she managed to find new interest in life and started to paint, using her mouth. Her paintings have now found a place among international artists, judged not as the efforts of a

disabled person but on their own merit.

A new creative outlet in the shape of her book, *Still Life*, was found, and then, after a move to Chelmsford five years ago, Elizabeth actually started to teach ballet again. 'It is wonderful to be back in the ballet world again', she writes. 'Occasionally, dancing is too subtle to put into words; then I feel my helplessness.' But, she says: 'I am amazed how quickly the girls grasp my ideas, how readily they respond to correction and how much they appear to enjoy the rehearsals.' Elizabeth's sister, Brighid, who is also a dancer, was there in the early stages to demonstrate, if necessary.

Work, of course, is Elizabeth's greatest asset. She says that it is possible for her to become so engrossed in teaching dancing that she forgets her disability altogether. And with characteristic grace she adds: 'The discipline has been good for me and I sense that, as a result of it, I am a better person than I was before I was ill.'



Elizabeth mouth-painting
Photo: Peter Russell

New Anglian Singers

The New Anglian Singers at the Cotswold Festival 1973
Photo: Bob Broeder and Nigel Turner



The story of the Singers starts in the study of St John's Vicarage, Great Clacton, in July 1962. The new curate, John Hull, has arrived from the wealth of music at Salisbury, and bamboozles a group of people from the church choir into thinking that they ought to sing a bit more, just for a laugh! There was little thought of performance—it was just to be for fun.

It has remained that, but little did anyone think that within 10 years the St John's Singers, later the New Anglian Singers, would have toured Norfolk, sung at Cotswold Festivals, given concerts in the Central Hall, Westminster (in 1967: 'Music for Christmas'), Campden Town Hall and the Royal Albert Hall itself.

Add to that their recording of Christmas music and poetry with Sir Bernard Miles—'A Tapestry of Winter'—and their 'Songs of Praise' appearances, and you begin to understand that this is not a mere bunch of home-grown amateurs.

Wherever possible, the Singers have tried to take their music to places where geographical isolation or chronic sickness prevent people from hearing a 'live' performance. Throughout, it has remained 'a laugh' and the fun has not been marred by the Director's insistence on perfection. As John says, 'the better you do a thing, the more fun

you get out of it!' With only 12 voices everyone has to work and John expects a full complement for the weekly rehearsal.

Over the 13 years some 30 singers have come and gone. Four of the original members remain. The singers, despite great differences in temperament, are firm friends. 'It's vital that we all get on together', says John. Their occupations are as varied as their music: the group comprises housewives, school-teachers, a schoolgirl, confectioneer, clerk of the courts, a solicitor, company secretary and computer programmer, a doctor and a parson.

And the music? 'Serious, sacred and silly', explains John. 'All sorts of unaccompanied music through the ages, from madrigals and Tudor church music to modern folk.'

The Toc H Minstrels

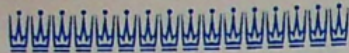
Since their inauguration 11 years ago, the Toc H Minstrels have given 629 concerts, travelled 12½ thousand miles and raised over £3,000 for charity.

The Minstrels, now composed of Joan and Bill Bailey, Lilian and Aubrey Slack, started singing in a member's home in 1963. It was to be just 'an instrumental sing-along evening', explained Lilian, but a year later they started giving shows. The Minstrels—or 'Mad Hatters' as they were then known—had at one time a full strength of nine.

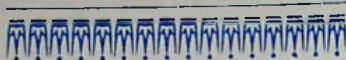
Their intention has always been to provide a service, in the form of entertainment to old age pensioners. Because the audience insisted on making donations, the Toc H Minstrels were able to start a fund to buy equipment for the local hospital, Kings Mill, in Sutton-in-Ashfield. So far they have bought a complete infant-care unit, an infant-warmer, a placental localiser, lamprscope and—their latest gift—a camera for photographing the retina of the eye. The local centre for the handicapped has also benefited—by £150 worth of archery equipment—as has The Family Purse.

The Toc H Minstrels. From left: Bill, Joan, Lilian, Aubrey
Photo: Maltby & Griffiths





Stephen Jack



Stephen Jack has earned his living as an actor for 56 years. His family background is entirely professional: grandfather, a master silversmith; father and uncle, singers; mother and uncle, painters; two other uncles, architects; wife, painter and horticulturist; son, actor. Stephen started touring the UK in theatre companies when he was 17, spending six years 'on the road' before returning to join the 'Old Vic' cast. Then followed four years in West End shows before he set forth again with the Arts League Travelling Theatre.

This led to five years at Liverpool Playhouse from 1931 to 1936. Back in London—having taken part in sundry broadcasts in the interim (the first from Savoy Hill in 1926)—he 'made his number' with the BBC and was soon almost exclusively a disembodied voice heard in innumerable programmes, notably *Children's Hour*: *Said the Cat to the Dog*, *Winnie the Pooh*, *The House at Pooh Corner*, *Jennifer's*, *Journeys*, *Toytown*, the *Du Garde* *Peash* series about Britain, *Castles of . . .*, *Hills of . . .*, *Rivers of . . .*, etc. The BBC Drama Repertory Company was formed in 1939 for wartime purposes, and Stephen was at Evesham and Bristol for almost two years. Home Guard and Civil Defence duties occupied much of his time until June 1945; in the 30 years since then he has 'freelanced' in radio, TV and films, with Talking Books for the Blind as a sideline.

Leisure activities (if 'leisure' is the right word!) have been mainly devoted to Scouting and Toc H, running in parallel since 1925. In September 1924 he was invested as a Rover Scout in his dressing-room at the Alhambra Theatre, Glasgow—a unique occurrence. Six months later he attached himself to the City of London Scout Association, its Commissioner being George Moore, priest/organist at All Hallows on Tower Hill and also in charge of Scouter training in Kent County. Stephen attended a course near Sevenoaks in July 1925 only to find that 25 per cent of the Scouters were members of Toc H. He asked the inevitable question, 'What is Toc H?'. 'Come and see' was the answer. He saw—and joined—on Tower Hill, afterwards singing most Sundays in the choir at All Hallows and occasionally at the Monday organ recitals with George Moore—becoming intimately acquainted with Tubby and all his followers, and more and more deeply involved.

At Tubby's behest, in 1946 he revived the 1st City of London Scout Group, based on All Hallows and staffed by some of the pre-war Scouts, but ultimately handed it over to colleagues in 1955 when invited to become Commissioner for Hendon, resigning his warrant in 1963, though still to date an honorary DC. As to Toc H, who in his senses could resign from the Family? Or venture to discount the widening of vision, the depth of fellowship and mutual understanding arising out of countless visits to Marks and branches and members' homes, service on the Central Executive and sundry committees, appearing at the Royal Albert Hall in several earlier Festival Evenings, editing an Area journal, conferring in Cumberland?—a strange and exciting mixture of work, worship and whoopee that will bring us all together for a Diamond Jubilee Festival.

BOOK REVIEW

To Recover Confidence

In *Civilisation* Lord Clark warns that what kills a civilisation more quickly than anything else is lack of confidence. 'We can destroy ourselves by cynicism and disillusion, just as effectively as by bombs.'

These are the opening words of a brilliant little book by one who was closely associated with the founding of Toc H and later became Bishop of Southwell. *Honest to God* triggered off a movement away from the traditional beliefs which had previously upheld faith. Faced with the moral and intellectual ferment of the past 15 years, theologians have sought to accommodate the dogmas and language of the past to our modern times. What is the essential core of Christian belief? How can it be expressed in terms acceptable to thinking people?

This is the challenge that F R Barry sets out to meet. He gets to grips with the fundamental questions: 'Who is God and how can we know Him?' And then, 'What is man?' Can scientific knowledge provide the whole answer?

Next, is it true? He shows us clearly the contrast between scientific and poetic or religious truth; then considers freedom and permissiveness. He ends by discussing other-worldliness and secularity, the meaning of and need for a 'Church'.

This book, so cheaply priced, is not exactly easy reading, but taken slowly and 'inwardly digested' it is most rewarding.

To Recover Confidence: F R Barry. SCM Press Ltd, 1974. 60p.

Canon 'Admiral' Benbow

Where there's muck there's brass!

This old North Country saying is today more true than ever before. You can raise hundreds of pounds out of scrap metal, paper, bottles—in fact almost anything.

Scott Shaw, Public Relations Assistant

Metal earns the most. In mid-April, scrap copper was fetching around £400 a tonne, brass £325, lead £15 to £160, aluminium £130, and steel £9 to £27 a tonne, depending on quality. Prices fluctuate—they're low at the moment. One time last year, copper was worth around £1,000 a tonne. Incidentally, you don't have to collect this amount, but the more the better.

Very important—sort your metals. It's pointless being paid for steel if most of your scrap is copper. Don't waste time with milk bottle tops or kitchen foil. Aluminium is a nuisance unless you can get plenty—eg, the ends of drink cans.

Ignore prices chalked up outside scrapyards. Check prices with the organisations at the end of this article if you can and delay selling if prices are rising. Ring scrapyards in the Yellow Pages and make it obvious you're shopping around for the best offers. Go to the biggest merchants—the smaller ones may only pay middlemen's prices.

For getting the stuff, publicise your 'scrap drive' with an appeal in the local press (use the Toc H Publicity Pack) or with a leaflets-through-letterboxes campaign. Collect the scrap from householders or get people to bring it to your central depot—say a lock-up garage.

You *must* be reliable—don't let your public down. Give each volunteer a specified area where he *must* collect on a *specified* day

at *regular* intervals; or have your depot manned *every* weekend—at the *same* time.

Paper prices have fallen but will be rising again. A tonne is about the minimum acceptable and fetches £10 to £60, depending on quality.

Again, sort your stocks. High-quality machine print-out or letter paper from banks and offices is best. Newspapers and magazines are worthless at the moment, and forget shredded paper—it's mostly air. Undamaged cardboard cartons from supermarkets may be sold for re-use if carefully opened and flattened—try food firms, printers, paper or board merchants.

Glass, as scrap, isn't worth the trouble unless you're near a glassworks. The real money is in returnable bottles—over £100,000 worth are dumped every year.

Returnable bottles carry a deposit of up to 5p each; Ribena, for example, pay 4p. Corona, who have had to import bottles from Sweden, may be prepared to come to an arrangement with you.

As for the bottles without a deposit, bottle-washing firms may pay 10p a crate for them—worthwhile if you can have a 'bottle day' in a local playground when householders can bring them in. Ask bottle merchants for samples of types wanted—generally only standard wine and sherry bottles used by

British firms. You'll have to dump the rest.

Junk to one person is treasure to another. Postcards, toys, magazines, comics, medals, coronation mugs, football and theatre programmes, button hooks, cameras, tickets, clocks, uniforms—if they're over 20 years old they're saleable. Keep them away from jumble sales—instead, advertise for offers in *Exchange & Mart*.

Financial return on scrap and second-hand items is good, thanks to voluntary labour. There is little competition: councils collecting from one house in three are doing very well, and local branches of Friends Of The Earth, mainly concerned with pollution control, may be happy to hand some of their jobs over to you.

The following can provide more information if you need it: A W Holden, National Industrial Materials Recovery Association (Bexhill-on-Sea); any Friends Of The Earth group; Yellow Pages (scrap and paper merchants, bottle washers); *Materials Reclamation Weekly* (McLaren Publishers, Croydon); British Waste Paper Association (London); British Paper & Board Industry Federation (London); Metal Box Company (London); International Alloys (Aylesbury); *Which?* (February 1975).

Acknowledgements to Friends Of The Earth and *Materials Reclamation Weekly* for providing information used in this article.



All Hallows Berkyngelchirche, the Guild Church of Toe H, celebrates its 1300th anniversary this year. Here, the Vicar, the Rev Colin Cuttall, traces the church's history from its foundation in AD 675.

The earliest All Hallows was built about AD 675, on the slight rise of land above the Thames marshes—primitive by our standards, and almost certainly levelled by a ravaging fire which consumed London in 1087. Yet it was no mean building: witness the Saxon doorway.

The church was built by Erkenwald, a prince of the East Saxons who took the Christian faith from St Augustine, after the example of his King, Ethelbert of Kent. Erkenwald became Bishop of London and founded a Christian colony at Berkyngel seven miles down river, appointing his sister Ethelburgha as its first Abbess. She seems to have been great in her own right despite the flavour of nepotism.

Some 150 years after the founding of Berkyngelchirche, Egbert set up his capital at Winchester and from that strongpoint governed the seven kingdoms of Wessex. It was geographically a safer seat than London, which

inevitably bore the brunt of savage Danish invasions. Indeed, until after King Alfred's decisive victory in 884, followed by the building of the great fort two years later, Londoners were never safe from sudden attack, massacre, rapine and plunder. These were fateful years for the church on Tower Hill. Yet the parish is still in being when Norman replaces Dane in the sinister role of invader, and while William the Conqueror's famous Keep was still a-building, the Norman All Hallows slowly rose upon the ruins of the old.

Thus began the long connection with the palace fortress across the Hill and so with the Plantagenets from the time of Richard I. The Lion Heart is said to have been interred in the Chantry Chapel of All Hallows—at his personal direction—and founded a Royal chapel on our north side. Richard III went further. He made of All Hallows a Royal Foundation, with a College, Dean and six Canons, which

suffered at the hands of iconoclasts in the Reformation.

It is of a piece with the schizoid character of Henry VIII that the many victims of his tyranny ended bloodily on the block. All Hallows received at its North Porch (still standing intact a few feet within the more modern doorway) many a sad procession bearing headless bodies. One of the most distinguished and without doubt the holiest of these victims of Royal caprice was Bishop Fisher who made his dignified exit on 22 June 1535. An eye-witness describes the burial thus:

'About eight o'clock in the evening, orders came from the Commissioners to the Sheriffs' men, who watched the body, to bury it; two of which took up the body on a halberd, and so carried it into the churchyard of All Hallows, Barking, where they dug a grave with the halberds, on the north side of it (*close by the porch mentioned above*) and

without any reverence tumbled the body into it flat on its belly.'

It was another tyranny, that of Cromwell 110 years after, which would take Archbishop Laud to the scaffold.

The post-Reformation period contrived to produce some great sons of All Hallows who remained true to the faith of their fathers. They often had to steer a tortuous course between the rabid excesses of the Puritans and a return to Papal jurisdiction. Outstanding among them was Lancelot Andrewes, born in 1555 and destined to become bishop of Winchester. His book of private prayers is still in use at the altar of the church he loved dearly. In the stormy middle decades of the 17th century, Vicar Layfield had a rough passage because he stood for the old-time religion against the raging of the Puritans.

'When arrested by order of parliament, he was interrupted during the performance of divine service and dragged out of church. Still wearing his surplice and with the prayer book tied round his neck, he was placed on a horse and led through the city amid the howls and jeers of the mob.'

After years spent in one gaol after another, the Restoration brought a happy ending. The parish dinner party to welcome back their beloved pastor cost £8 9s 4d. It's all there in the faded account book against the date 20 October 1662.

We could take on the tale for another page or two: into the 18th and 19th centuries; describe the revival of the ancient College under Archbishop Benson; tell of the great men whose academic brilliance added lustre to the record: A J Mason, A W Robin-

son, W E Collins, and latterly Philip Byard Clayton.

Tubby came to All Hallows in 1922. It was an inspired appointment, which we owe to Archbishop Davidson. This young and vigorous cleric turned night into day as a torrent of visionary ideas poured from his fertile brain. He won the allegiance of the post-war generation of young men who were prepared to go the second and third mile with him, enclothing his vision with reality. It was a superb team that took over All Hallows and made it the spiritual mainspring and centre of the vortex which was Toc H in the Twenties.

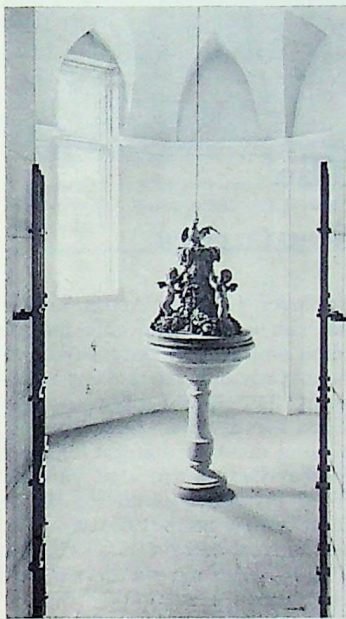
The bombing of 1940 nearly broke his heart. The church which finally replaced it in 1954 was entirely due to the same vision and restless energy as he begged his way round the world. His spiritual children will rise up and call him blessed.

All Hallows is celebrating with a Festival Month, beginning on 18 May, packed full with cultural activities—including a pageant, organ recitals, concerts, opera, an Elizabethan evening, an evening of dance, *King David*—a rock musical, *A Man for all Seasons*, *Murder in the Cathedral*; also the Joy Folk, historical readings and lectures. Sermons at the usual Sunday services will be given by distinguished churchmen, and four ecumenical lunchtime talks have been arranged. On 1 June All Hallows will celebrate the Toc H Diamond Jubilee at an open-air Eucharist, and at 8 pm there will be a special performance of the pageant for Toc H members. The church is also featuring in a Whit Sunday broadcast of 'Songs of Praise', BBC1, 18 May, 6.55 pm.

Further information from: The Festival Director, St Dunstan's Rectory, Idol Lane, London EC3.



Seventh-century Saxon arch
Photo: John A Rose



The font, carved in Gibraltar limestone in 1944 by Tulipani, a Sicilian prisoner-of-war. The font cover is of limewood and was given in 1681 by J Foyle
Photo: John A Rose

news point

News, cartoons, crosswords and photos (clear black and white, please, are always welcome. Please send to: Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Combined Effort

What started as a small New Year get-together in a member's lounge has now developed into a gathering of almost 150, enjoying an evening's entertainment and, at the same time, raising money for a 1975 branch project.

Members of Wigmore and Rainham men's branch have combined with Wigmore ladies to supply some equipment for a local Cheshire Home.

Secretary Colin Ward writes that the evening consists of games and dancing, 'although it is generally admitted that the buffet is the main attraction. For this, we are indebted to the ladies, whose untiring efforts produce a meal of enormous proportions. The branch is extremely grateful, too, for the generosity of members and friends in providing a large variety of gifts for the inevitable raffle.'

Last year the Wigmore and Rainham men's branch was able to raise about £330 to provide the new Old People's Welfare Centre in Gillingham with a record-player, amplifier and tape-recorder. No mean feat for a branch consisting of but 15 members.

Toc H Summer School, Bangor

Cyril Carrier

When in 1965 Padre John I Jones started the Summer School at Bangor, he may have hoped but he could not have known that it would still be going 10 years later.

The school was part of the Welsh contribution to the Jubilee year, but more than that it was a place where men could meet to hear about, consider and discuss the many things that make up life in this ever-changing world.

The help given by Canon Glyn-dwr Williams, Warden of Church Hostel, Bangor, at that time, and Iain Fraser (of the staff) set such a pattern that the school has gone from strength to strength. Lecturers from university, industry and commerce have been there, as well as Toc H staff and lay speakers. Between Iain Fraser's 'Our Contemporary World' in 1965 and Padre John Gingell's 'Life is for Living' in 1975 the topics and speakers are too numerous to mention, but someone somewhere remembers and it will have helped and sustained an individual or even a group or community.

The students arrive from all parts of the country: North and

South Wales, of course, but also from Lancashire, Cheshire, Leicestershire and Gloucestershire, to mention but a few.

Woven into the programme are morning prayers led by the Chaplain, E.J. Basil Jones, whose thumb-nail sermons are gems that live with one for ever. The excursions into the countryside are always joyful occasions. Stories of local legend told by our courier, the singing, the Conway crawl, and of course the scenery is exceptional. Still to come are the late-night discussions; for some, after a visit to the local.

But there's much to be learned here if only one can sit back and listen, though the temptation to have a go is always great. Finally to Friday evening and Nosen Iawen. This, like the fellowship, cannot be put into words; you must really be there to know. This world, we believe, is God's world, but in the end it will be what we make of it. Many of us feel the Bangor School helps us see a little more clearly.

For further information write to: Cyril Carrier, 367 Hungerford Road, Crewe, Cheshire.

The Venturers

For over 40 years Acton Toc H has run a successful club for the blind on alternate Saturday afternoons providing tea and entertainment for elderly blind people. Then Mrs Pat Bailey came along, a blind member doing a full-time job, and explained that younger blind people required something more active. So the Venture Club was formed and meets on the first Thursday of each month in a local church hall.

Lately the blind members have started a drama group, called 'The Venturers', and have staged two successful comedies, the latest being Basil Thomas's 'The Lovebirds'.

More Jubilee News

To acknowledge the Diamond Jubilee, Saughall branch is sponsoring an Open Day at the gardens of Eaton Hall, home of the Duke of Westminster, on Sunday 25 May. Proceeds will be donated to the Rhyl Toc H Children's Camp.

A Thanksgiving Service for branches in the Leicester District will be held on 13 September at St Denys Church, Evington.

Chippenham District plans to celebrate the Jubilee with events in four towns, to include a concert by the Treorchy Male Voice Choir, a Spring Fair, a coffee morning at the Greathouse Cheshire Home in July, and a social gathering at Trowbridge in September.

Please note: the date of the Swindon Jubilee Week-end at Wroughton has been changed to 20-21 September.

Surrey Pancake Greaze

Saturday 22 February saw the seventh Surrey District Pancake Greaze for the Puma trophy. Over 60 members of branches throughout the county, Builders and friends were present at the Weybridge Hall to see Barbara Prideaux-Brune toss two enormous pancakes specially made for the occasion by Sam Sellars, Chef of Westminster School.

Eight muscular types scrambled for a couple of minutes for the largest piece of pancake. The winners were the Weybridge team led by David Ferguson, with the Woking Projects team the runners-up. David was presented with the trophy, which will be held for 12

months, by Ken Prideaux-Brune. He also received an obsolete Belgian banknote presented by Weybridge member Leslie Gosden, who acquired it when he made his first visit to the Old House at Poperinge several years before the Second World War.

After refreshments, including delicious fresh pancakes made by the ladies of Weybridge branch, Ken Prideaux-Brune gave a short talk. He stressed the need for Toc H in the world today because of the kind of opportunities which Toc H provides for people to learn the values that are important to them, to learn what it is that gives life a meaning and a purpose.



The Director, Ken Prideaux-Brune, presents the Puma trophy to David Ferguson

Free TV

Do you know of any needy, bed-ridden, or housebound invalid who would benefit from having a radio or television?

The Wireless for the Bedridden Society exists to make lives happier by providing such a contact with the outside world. The Chairman, the Right Honourable the Lord Wells-Pestell, writes that the society is 'making a sincere and sustained effort to reach those who are really in need and we are glad to have our attention drawn-by anyone-to a needy aged person who is without a radio or television'.

The radios are modern transistors supplied with free batteries; televisions are supplied on full rental through one of the leading companies. In cases of severe need, the licence is also given.

The Society invites requests for application forms at: 20 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8BQ. Applications must be sponsored by a member of the Welfare Services, which includes members of Toc H.

The Wireless for the Bedridden Society is a registered charity.

BINGO!

Big-hearted bingo players in a city social club are raising money to send two underprivileged children on holiday this summer.

As a result of a Toc H appeal, the members of the bingo club, at Freemans mail order firm in Westwood, Peterborough, are raising £28 by holding special bingo sessions and plan to send their two 'adopted' children on a super holiday to a Skegness holiday camp.

World Chain of Light

A Vigil will be maintained in the Upper Room of Talbot House, Poperinge, from 9 pm on Thursday 11 December to 9 pm on Friday 12 December. The party will be led by Padre Bob Knight and any members of Toc H visiting Europe this winter are especially invited. Friends in Poperinge will participate, so it is hoped to have an international and ecumenical team for this Vigil. The cost will be in the region of £25 (including travel from the UK on the 10th, returning on the 13th).

Vigils will also be convened at various centres including All Hallows and Dor Knap. It is hoped that other vigils will be organised in different parts of the world so that all members who wish to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee by taking part in a vigil may be able to do so.

Toc H in Europe and North America should therefore observe the World Chain of Light at 9 pm local time on Thursday 11 December; Toc H in New Zealand, Australia, India and Africa on Friday 12 December.

Bob Knight has been asked to revise the Birthday Vigil handbook, last published in 1965. This will be available in the autumn together with the Pattern for Devotion and the Michaelmas leaflet from the Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover.

Begin making your plans for 11 and 12 December. Why not exchange a cassette message with Toc H in another part of the world in 1975?

talking point

Toc H into Europe

Richard Green

In trying to obtain a common opinion from a group of Toc H members, one is often left with the feeling that, to a man, they all secretly adhere to the commendably honest philosophy of Lewis Carroll's Humpty Dumpty, as well as to the Third Point of the Compass: 'When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean, neither more nor less.' It is beyond doubt that this is the deadliest and most infuriating virtue the Movement possesses.

When our country decides, by referendum, whether or not to remain in the Common Market, the philosophy behind Toc H, embodied particularly in the Third Point, will have a vital role to play. For if people choose in a prejudiced rather than in a fair-minded and reasoning attitude, then the wrong course will undoubtedly be steered.

It is too easy to condemn foreigners and their customs because they are strange and unknown to us, to place the blame for all our nation's ills conveniently upon the head of a French, German or Italian scapegoat. Toc H, especially, should always be aware of its fellowship with all men of all cultures, beginning as it did on the main continent of Europe and not here at home.

It is a curious, mind-boggling coincidence that the greatest and bloodiest conflagration Europe has ever seen gave birth to what John Callf in *Second Wind* has called 'a big show called the League of Nations' and 'a little show called Toc H'. John mentions the author Paul Tillich, to whose theory, that great tidal waves of the Spirit during periods of history carry men forward to high adventure, he lends his support. John continues: 'Thus events which at the time seemed to have no connection with one another have proved to have a common origin in the same tidal wave, and men have discovered that the Spirit which said things to them was also saying it to other men in distant places.' He quotes the Renaissance, the Reformation and the Elizabethan era as examples. Tillich adds to these the period after the First World War. It is on such waves of idealism that various hopeful movements come to birth.

Britain's entry into the Common Market must surely mark another such period, borne on a wave of idealism. The Common Market,

like Toc H, is concerned with destroying the barriers that divide man from man, nation from nation. This is the way to promote peace and prosperity and to avoid conflict. The Common Market, like Toc H, is about building bridges within the community (although one might have said building a Chunnel!). A united Europe means a political union strong enough to encourage democracy and the values of Western civilisation.

Yet the fears of, and the suspicions towards, Europe, which many people demonstrate, have to be acknowledged and answered. Many people are apprehensive that the United Kingdom might lose its sovereignty in favour of Brussels.

It should be made clear from the start that only those problems which really require an over-all European approach should be dealt with at the Community level. A clear division of power should be made between Community, national states, regions and local government. Progress made within the European Economic Community so far has been disappointing; not because political integration has gone too far, but rather because it has not gone far enough. The result is that in the past 12 months we have seen the Community at sixes and sevens over regional policy, monetary policy, energy policy, agricultural policy and foreign policy. All this is because each national government still insists on clinging to its veto, instead of pooling national sovereignty in order to solve the problem. The vision and idealism have temporarily been lost.

However, having suggested the need for a pooling of national sovereignty in limited but social spheres, there must be a safeguard. The principal safeguard of democracy where sovereignty is pooled must be the European

Parliament. Legislative power needs to be transferred from the Council of Ministers to a Parliament directly elected by the citizens of Europe. This would inevitably make the EEC relevant to you and me; it would not be some strange, semi-mythical union administered over the sea.

It is impossible to see progress made towards a European union so long as every step is subject to a Council of Ministers representing the nine member nations, each with a veto. The importance of democratic political integration cannot be over-emphasised.

Another complaint which many people make against the Common Market is that it has made things dearer in the shops, and to an extent this is true.

The main difficulty is the Common Agricultural Policy which seeks artificially to keep up prices to the consumer and restricts world access to the British market and to Common Market countries in general. This clearly isolates member nations from world prices and means that EEC price levels are maintained by levies on agricultural imports and by the Community intervening to buy when prices fall. Hence we cannot benefit from cheap world food or over-production at home. This system also means that farmers are encouraged to produce a great surplus of supplies because the price is pegged. It happened with butter, and people were naturally irritated to see the famous Butter Mountain being sold off cheaply outside the Community.

The answer is to change the system: to reduce price levels to the consumer, to give a direct subsidy to marginal producers and to have less restriction on imports, particularly from the developing world. We should also remember that the system has worked in our favour in the

past; the EEC Commission has estimated, for example, that French wheat sold to Britain was on average £10 to £25 a long ton cheaper than American wheat since August 1973. According to Mrs Shirley Williams, Minister of Prices, of an increase in British food prices in 1973 of about 20 per cent, only 1 per cent was caused by our adjustment to Community price levels. But what of our former trading partners in the Commonwealth? The plain fact is that in the past we have used our Commonwealth partners to obtain cheap food, as we have seen this year in the case of sugar. Commonwealth countries, in the new climate, are seeking more attractive markets elsewhere or are themselves negotiating with the EEC, and Britain no longer has a right to depend on them.

Of course, there are many things wrong with the Common Market, and it is still a long way from being the far-reaching political union which for so long has been envisaged. But Britain has a positive role within Europe to help shape the vision and to make it real. Outside the Common Market we stand alone; but together with the other eight member nations, with a joint European approach, we can work together to help *all* developing countries; to reduce pollution; to adopt a Community food policy; to help destroy the divisions between men and nations. The only way for Britain to influence Europe and to make changes is from within.

It is the solemn undertaking and bounden duty of all Toc H members to discuss the question of Europe, like all other matters, with an attitude of fairmindedness and not blind prejudice. The columns of *Point Three* stand for this very principle and provide the ideal opportunity to do so. I hope Toc H members will make full use of them.

TO THE POINT

■ Cardiff Toc H plans to start a jigsaw library at the Cardiff Centre for elderly and housebound people. Any unwanted jigsaws should be sent to Mrs Renée Brewer, 17 Cressy Road, Penylan, Cardiff. Bebington Toc H is also starting a library. Please send puzzles to Mr R B Brown, 27 Foxcovers Road, Bebington, Cheshire.

■ More puzzles! This time from Pickering Toc H who have started a jigsaw puzzle library with the help of their three new teenage volunteers. The branch has chosen this for its Diamond Jubilee project.

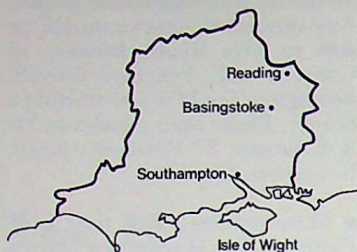
■ Following their mention in February's 'To The Point', Barnstaple received its old Lamp back and the branch was fully reinstated, for the second time in its life. 80 members and friends attended as Peter Danmers, South Western Regional Chairman, lit the Lamp from the flame of the Lamp of Exeter, the parent branch.

■ Members and friends of Mundesley Toc H entertained the over-60s recently with, amongst other things, seven male members of Toc H dressed up as ladies and parading in front of a panel of judges. The winner was crowned 'Miss Mundesley—with a chamber pot! Oh for a picture.

■ Mr Gerald Liardet would welcome callers for tea or coffee at his home, Crinnis, Coleridge Lane, Chillington, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 2JP. Tel: Torcross 602.

■ David Deterding is spending nine months at Talbot House, Trinity Square, working with Peter East as a long-term volunteer before going on to university. We wish David well in his work with Toc H.

Southern Region



'Cross-fertilisation of ideas between staff, councillors and all members is essential. There's a general complaint from branches about poor communications. Toc H has always suffered from this; and before we can do anything in the grand manner, we've got to get our communications right.

'That means reading *Action for the Seventies* and considering whether we as councillors are doing the job required of us. A councillor's job is not simply to convey decisions to and from the Council but to work with staff and branches to see that those things decided at Central Council can be put into practice in the Districts.

'It is vital that councillors and staff should realise their interdependence. Tubby's great point, which I shall never forget, was that "two people working together are more than twice as good as one".

'This Council is firmly disposed to implement *Action for the Seventies* in this Region, but our starting difficulty is a shortage of cash. It is essential that we should raise our income in order to do those things which we can see are vital.'

Carved out of the South Eastern and Western Regions, the Southern Region started work last September from scratch. 'The first thing we had to realise', says Reg Peters, Regional Chairman, 'was that councillors and staff all had to work together. We can't commit ourselves to any definite plan until we have a strong nucleus of enthusiastic councillors working alongside our staff--and we have short-term problems here'.

Reg explained that the Region would like to set up and follow through more projects, to provide opportunities for attracting people into the Movement.

'Staff are of course well qualified for exploring possibilities of interesting young people. There are four field-staff posts in this Region: Elizabeth Bacon near Bournemouth; John Forbes in Bath; Crispin White (shortly moving to Peterborough), whose replacement will be based near Basingstoke; and a vacancy in Southampton.'

At present, councillors and staff are taking stock of the strength of Toc H within the Region in order to determine possible areas for extension. The Regional Executive is setting up five working parties to look at particular areas which seem to be the most promising: Basingstoke/Reading/Wokingham; Oxford/Swindon/Chippenham; Portsmouth/Southampton; Devizes/Salisbury; and Bournemouth are centres, says Reg, 'where we feel opportunity knocks'.

'But', stresses the Regional Chairman, 'any plans must depend on money, staff and communications, and these are not in the bag yet.'

Reg Peters Regional Chairman and Councillor for Abingdon District. Former Marks Commissioner 1961-68, when he left the staff to work with Tubby and the Wakefield Trust. Left Tower Hill just over a year ago, but remains a Trustee. Was awarded the OBE for pursuing a Toc H way of life in India, where he spent 30 years with Burmah-Shell.

Chris Hobby Regional Treasurer and youngest member of Executive (aged 20). Cashier at Southampton branch of Lloyds Bank. Joined Milford-on-Sea branch two years ago; very busy with village activities: his family has lived in Milford-on-Sea for almost 200 years.

Wilf Youngs Regional Secretary and Deputy Warden of Southampton Seafaring Boys' Club. Previously spent six years in BAOR; served as warden in four of the clubs and before that was warden of Mark XVIII, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Wilf joined Toc H in Middlesbrough when he was 17.

Norman Dyer A Welshman by birth and an accredited lay preacher of the United Reformed Church. Founder member and chairman of the South Wales Centre until he moved to Reading five years ago. Now Central Councillor for Reading District and on the Reading Children's Camp Committee.

Reg Collins Chairman of the Bournemouth and Christchurch joint branch and of the Retired Men's Club, Iford (started by the branch); also active press correspondent for the Wessex District. Has spent 43 years with the North Thames Gas Board; former member of Uxbridge branch. Active Methodist.

Doris Foxworthy Born and bred in the Isle of Wight; now Central Councillor for IOW District. Introduced to Toc H in 1951; became a founder member of Parkhurst women's branch. Retired from secretarial work in 1970. Treasurer of local Age Concern group and helps to run the Day Centre for the elderly.

Marcia Nicholson Housewife with three sons and a daughter-in-law; also a social work student. Member of Winchester branch; retired from CEC last year. Joined the Movement at Leamington Spa 32 years ago. Keen swimmer and crossword fan.

George Bachmann German by birth, joined Toc H 15 years ago. Enthusiast for projects and extension ventures. Keen sportsman and active in youth work and training in sailing, canoeing, swimming and waterskiing. Loves sea-fishing to get away from it all. Projects engineer at Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co Ltd, Central Councillor for Chippenham.

Frank Dupont A retired member of the BAOR staff; although Frank has returned to Germany for relief duties four times in the past two years. Spent six years as Warden of Verden. Active in local church and social work: President Elect of the Portsmouth and District Free Church Federal Council and on the executive of the Havant Council of Community Services.

Reg Coates Born and bred in Chippenham and joined Chippenham branch 22 years ago. Very involved with Greathouse Cheshire Home. Keen on photography (including ciné); also on arranging concerts, particularly the Treorchy Male Voice Choir. Co-opted to CEC and PR Advisory Group.

Fred Jeal Joined Toc H in Singapore, while in the RAF.

Former Southern Area and Regional Treasurer, currently chairman of Andover branch. Retired from the Civil Service seven years ago; now drives full-time for the Ambulance Car Service. Lifelong active interest in scouting, also in motorcycles, cars and engines; church sidesman.

Elizabeth Bacon Appointed to the staff in 1967 and worked initially for the Women's Association in the Western Area. After integration, moved to Southern Area and now works from her home in Broadstone, Dorset. Had previously worked on the secretarial side of commerce and in schools. Loves to travel.

John Forbes 31 years with Toc H. Joined Western Region staff in 1970 after 29 years in Cadbury's. 'Birthright' member of National Adult School Union; fond of natural history, microscopy, books, poetry, paintings

and especially choral music. Treasures association with Poperinge; convinced that Toc H has an ever-increasing part to play in the ecumenical field.

Harry Buckle Warden of Talbot House Seafaring Boys' Club, Southampton. Born and bred in a small Yorkshire mining village. Left school at 14 ('and I don't feel underprivileged!'). 22 years in the Army introduced Harry to many Toc H service canteens and later the clubs in BAOR, where he served on the staff 1962-63.

Rev Crispin White Joined the staff in 1971 after three exciting years in Canada, in a parish on the Quebec-Labrador coast. The parish, 70 miles long by 10 wide, had no roads, so all travelling between the three main villages was done by snowmobile or single-engine aircraft. Crispin, with his wife and two young children, will be moving to Peterborough in August.



Reg Peters



Norman Dyer



George Bachmann



Elizabeth Bacon



Chris Hobby



Reg Collins



Frank Dupont



John Forbes



Wilf Youngs



Doris Foxworthy



Reg Coates



Harry Buckle



Marcia Nicholson



Fred Jeal



Rev Crispin White

How it's done

Oldham branch, Lancashire

'When's the next one? What a friendly atmosphere! I haven't enjoyed myself so much for ages.'

These were some of the gratifying comments made after our latest Afternoon Tea for the elderly.

What's so special about an Afternoon Tea? For our members it's the end result of baking, visiting, organising, etc. For our guests it's a chance to get out during these depressing winter months, see new faces, and chat to old and new friends—and it doesn't cost the branch a penny!

Of the 120 or so guests, we provided transport for approximately 40 who were housebound or had difficulty getting about (and the ride through the changing streets of our town was a thrill enough for some). They were served with a home-made tea and entertained with singing and Lancashire poems.

We charge 5p, so we are not giving charity, and this together with the revenue from a raffle and bring-and-buy stall covers the cost of transport, hiring the room, etc. Members donate most of the refreshments.

This year's tea was made special by a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress of Oldham, and the branch took this opportunity to present the Mayor, Councillor Ellen Brierley, with a cheque for £5 towards her own appeal for a children's holiday home for the sick, needy and handicapped.

Several other branches in our District have tried the idea of an Afternoon Tea with the same success, and in fact owing to the popularity of the latest effort we are thinking of hiring a larger room in future.

So, what's so special about our Afternoon Tea? We don't know—could it be the spirit of Toc H?

FOLK '75

One white week-end in February—when winter was winter—a group of people from the South Eastern Region, together with two members of Toc H from Cape Town, enjoyed two days of folk music at Dor Knap.

The music ranged from the modern folk-songs of Paul Simon sung by Christopher Stern, a resident of Talbot House, to unaccompanied traditional folk-songs rendered by Peter Clayton. The Rev Bob Knight, Headquarters Padre, presented a taped anthology of religious folk-music. A ceilidh, organised by Jack and Kay Kirby of the Wendover staff, had a number of energetic people leaping about to the tune of Jack's fiddle, 'stripping the willow' well into the small hours.

Next year it has been decided to extend the idea to a four-day period over Easter, combining a working party at Dor Knap with a wider variety of folk-song and dance, folk-lore and some poetry. This kind of leisure activity seems to be growing steadily in popularity. The annual poetry week-end to be held at Alison House in May is booked out with 35 Toc H members and friends representing

eight poetry societies, including editors and publishers. An all-time record since the week-end was first introduced six years ago by Keith Rea and Edwin Harrison.

Over the past few years there has been an emphasis on finding a job to do in order to bring people into Toc H. The growing interest in the arts, and the development of recreational projects devoted to hobbies such as photography, reflect a more relaxed attitude. Perhaps one of the best services Toc H can now give is to bring people together for recreation in this somewhat frenetic age.



Harpenden Joint

On 1 April after almost 50 years of Toc H in Harpenden, the two branches, Harpenden ladies and Harpenden men, closed down and re-formed as the new Harpenden joint branch. Terry Gray, chairman of the new branch, says: 'We hope that the new joint branch will prove a more attractive proposition to potential members and will help to extend the work of Toc H in Harpenden.'

Parish bulletin

There will be a procession next Sunday afternoon in the grounds of the Monastery; but if it rains in the afternoon the procession will take place in the morning.



Folk '75 at Dor Knap
Photos: Kay Kirby

Tufty Club's Award

A Toc H mum and daughter team who started the Tufty Club in Cardiff to teach young children road safety has been awarded a Meritorious Service Certificate by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

Mrs Renée Brewer and her daughter, Mrs Val Pearse, became interested in the Tufty Club through a young wives' church group, realising that organised road safety training for pre-school children catered only for youngsters whose mothers belonged to established organisations. Many children in the city of Cardiff were therefore excluded from the opportunity of such instruction.

Renée and Val, both members of the local Toc H, decided that here was an opportunity to provide a service for the protection of these children.

Consequently a letter was sent to a local newspaper inviting mothers to take their children to the Toc H Centre in Cardiff. 38 mothers brought their children to the Centre from all parts of the city.

The scheme received national acclaim for Toc H and, due to the dedication of Renée and Val, the club continues to provide this service with the full support of the Cardiff Toc H, who provide free accommodation and pay for their overhead expenses such as heating and lighting.



Renée Brewer and Val Pearse receiving their Meritorious Service Certificates from the Chairman of South Glamorgan County Council, Councillor E Currie-Jones
Photo: *Western Mail and Echo*, Cardiff

Philip Barron recently attended the tenth anniversary congress of France's 'Nature et Progrès' organisation and reports exclusively for *Point Three*.

The idea was to provide an international forum bringing together the various strands of the conservation movement, with the emphasis on the provision of facts that people could use either to fight the polluters or just to adjust their own life-style to ecological principles.

One of the main themes was the need for producing both food and energy in ways that respect the environment.

With the cost of fossil fuels soaring, it appears that organic agriculture has suddenly become respectable. Not only do these methods economise on oil-based fertiliser and pesticides; they also require less use of energy-burning machinery.

Energy turned out to be the dominant theme in the conference. To make the point that those who favour less energy-intensive life-styles were not calling for a return to the Middle Ages, one speaker pointed out that the year when France was using half her present energy consumption was 1963. The United States got by with one-third of today's consumption as recently as 1910.

Feelings ran high during a session on the dangers of nuclear power development. The Swedish Professor Gillberg told how public opinion had been mobilised in Sweden to force a two-year moratorium on the building of nuclear power plants. A private poll which had been leaked showed that 60 per cent of the population were against nuclear power and 81 per cent were prepared to cut their use of energy to avoid reliance on nuclear sources.

An American biochemist told the hair-raising story of two nuclear power stations that were half-built before it was discovered that they were on top of an earthquake fault. The meticulous attention to detail needed to operate a nuclear system safely was, he said, beyond human capability.

Another session was devoted to 'alternative energy cycles'. One of two British speakers at the conference, Lawrence Hills, explained how methane gas was being produced as a by-product of composting. A French architect talked about experiments in heating houses by solar energy, and another Frenchman described experiments with wind power.

The other British contributor was Angela Bates, of the Soil Association, who explained how that organisation was licensing approved growers to use a special symbol on produce grown by organic methods.

A striking feature of this unusual conference was the youth of most of the participants; about two-thirds were under 35. The ones I talked to seemed ready to sacrifice some of the comforts they had been used to if this were necessary to sustain a society geared to zero growth in the consumption of energy.

Speaker after speaker left us under no illusions; that was what it was all about. The real choice, they emphasised, was between a society that uses a lot of energy and one that uses as little as possible. And somehow we had to solve the problem without penalising third world countries whose people had not yet achieved the kind of basic living standards we left behind years ago.

Package Deal

'All development must be a package deal: a concerted attack on all the related parts of a problem'

Frank Field

Two of the most successful projects recently have been of the package-deal type, one based on literacy and co-operatives and the other on co-operative rural health.

The first, in the Sylhet area of North-East Bangladesh, was organised by a team of young men under the direction of an executive from a multinational company, and had, as its first aim, to rebuild some of the shattered fishing fleets. The Sylhet area contains a 500 square mile depression 10 feet below sea level which floods every year. They also wanted to establish a network of community centres in which to base literacy classes. Timber was floated down from India and a whole production line set up to build boats of

standard sizes which were then donated to the co-operatives, who rented them out to groups of fishermen and used the income to finance the co-ops and build replacements. After the boats were finished the same production lines then turned out Persian water-lifts and school furniture for sale and use by local communities.

By the end of the first phase literacy was such a booming success that it was possible to develop functional literacy. Specific groups of people are selected and trained in special subjects with the books and teachers all geared specially to that one end. A whole series of such courses have been designed for use nationwide. The experiment has now been taken up by

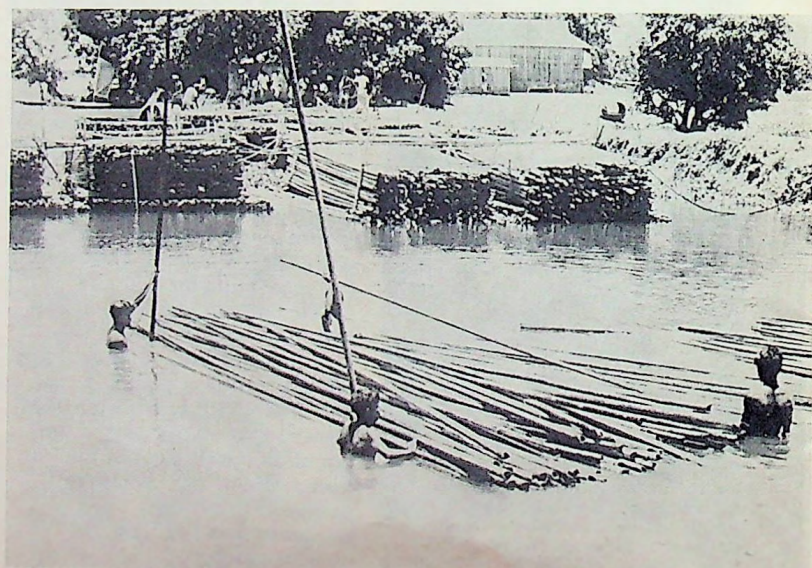
UNICEF, who are paying for the printing and distribution of a monthly newspaper which is sent free to every primary and secondary school teacher in the country. Other projects are watching this with great interest and the newspaper and textbooks are now on sale. The newspaper, by the way, has a larger circulation than any of the daily newspapers!

They also have a good public health programme and, in conjunction with the scheme that I am going to describe next, run training courses for their own and other projects' village-level workers and doctors.

The other project which I think has been most successful is the co-operative rural health and

Fishermen in Bangladesh using boats and nets provided through the BRAC project
Photo: Philip Jackson, Oxfam

Bamboo is floated down from Assam to rebuild homes and fishing fleets destroyed by flooding
Photo: Philip Jackson, Oxfam



community development idea proposed by a doctor who had run a field hospital for refugees during the war of independence in Bangladesh. He knew only too well that there were never going to be enough doctors to go round and that those there were would stay in the towns. So the only way to get a real service to the great mass of the people was to set up a base from which a limited number of specialists could reach out through a large number of locally based paramedical and village-level workers.

He was able to motivate a really dedicated group and set up his base. He sold the idea that villagers would always be willing to pay for health and he actually started to collect regular monthly payments from them in cash or kind and register the families. As each village joined the scheme it was given the treatment with a full range of inoculations and a course of talks by health workers. A village-level worker was selected who would be their link with the base hospital. The first hospital was a very makeshift affair in tents and bamboo huts,

but the enthusiasm was there and the clinics were crowded.

They soon found that it was no good talking about nutrition to people who never saw vegetables, so a garden was started in which everybody on the staff and under training worked a little every day. When the permanent hospital came to be started I went out on the first morning to see if the contractor was actually getting on with the job and found 24 young men who had come in for a week from the villages to build 'their' hospital. They were on the job at 7 am digging the foundations! The contractor was shortly dispensed with and the work all done by direct labour.

A team of young ladies now goes out every day on bicycles and on foot to the surrounding area to hold ante- and post-natal clinics, teach mothercare and distribute the 'pill'. A few years ago it would have been unheard of for girls to even contemplate such a career; now they are accepted and welcomed. Courses are run to upgrade the village midwives

and quack doctors. This is most essential, because these people are known and trusted by the villagers and for many they represent the only form of medicine available. It would be quite wrong to sweep them aside, as has so often been done in the past. It is a very rewarding sight to see these village midwives taking classes and seeing for the first time through models what actually happens inside the body and how delivery actually works, with and without complications.

The whole area comes to feel that it belongs and that the programme belongs to them. Doctors are paid twice the normal government salary and are forbidden private practice (which is usually the downfall of the public service), and they are assured of a worthwhile career as key members of an ever-widening team which reaches out to the furthest nook and cranny of the countryside. The combination of this with the literacy and community programmes, which now become possible through the interaction and co-operation of projects, will have a greater effect on rural uplift than any other development which has taken place during this century.

Bengali women mending nets.
Countless fishing fleets are shattered in severe flooding each year
Photo: Nick Fogden, Oxfam



Right:
A women's literacy class, Bangladesh
Photo: Nick Fogden, Oxfam



EXCLUSIVE

They meet in a cold, damp, derelict cottage with no furniture and only a Calor gas light. But this is known as the most exclusive club in Ely—and the smallest, with only four members.

These four members of Ely Toc H, refusing to let Toc H die in the city, go along to their clubhouse every week to chop and deliver wood to the elderly folk in the city.

Ely Toc H, which has never been larger than six members, began 15 years ago when one of its first jobs was to launch a 'Guide Dog for the Blind' campaign. A year ago the branch was in danger of closing down when they had to leave their original meeting place. Then they were offered this derelict cottage and decided to carry on.

Each Wednesday they go along to chop wood, and once every two weeks—between Christmas and Easter—they deliver the kindling to the elderly.

For the past two years a two-stone bag of coal has been included with their firewood. This has been made possible by a local firm, Tillotsons, who donated £120 to Ely Toc H to buy the coal.

As well as delivering this to the 25 elderly people, they 'keep them under their wing' by regular visits to chat with them and make sure everything is all right. The warden at Fairfax Court, where visits are made, said: 'They are a terrific bunch and don't want any praise for the valuable work they do.'

NAN

Southill branch, Weymouth

Our Chairman, Margaret, met Nan who for 20 years had been in and out of hospital with TB. Her brother brought her as a visitor to a special meeting in Margaret's house. From then on when she was fit (and often when she was not), Nan became a 'regular' at our meetings. Petite, gentle, frail, this cheeky little person has become a close friend of us all. At any branch meeting, with Nan sitting beside another handicapped member, Joan, all the laughter stems from these two.

These two, Nan and Joan, with a third probationer, were ready to be made members and the whole of Southill branch, Weymouth, had gathered for the initiation, but there was a sadness because Nan was back in hospital in isolation. Eventually, our Chairman, Joan and the District Pilot held a shortened ceremony in the ward and Nan was given her badge.

What has Nan received from Toc H? After 20 years of four hospital walls or four home walls, she has release into the outside world and new friends. What have we received from Nan? Much more: a glimpse of perfection of spirit which gives joy through laughter, example through pain bravely borne, and above all hope, for how can our small burdens cast us down in the face of such indestructible courage?

Holiday project

Morecambe men's and women's branches are giving a holiday to 10 children and their houseparents from a family unit in Hull. The children are victims of sea tragedies. Local churches, Rangers and Guides have offered entertainment for the children during their stay.

Brass for charity

The Black Dyke Mills Band recently visited Kettering's Central Hall to give a concert in aid of local Toc H funds. The band played before a packed audience and raised about £150 for Kettering Toc H.

Toc H man for Christian Aid

The Rev Dr Kenneth Slack, MBE, a Vice-President of Toc H, has been appointed Director of Christian Aid. He succeeds the Rev Alan Booth when he retires this summer.

Christian Aid Week this year is from 19 to 24 May.

Bexhill's tea

Bexhill-on-Sea branch is hoping to hold a tea party for lonely old folk every four months. The last tea party was much appreciated by the 16 guests, who were collected by members in cars and taken home afterwards.

Heaps of goodwill: Cyril, John and Debbie Heaps deliver wood to the elderly residents of Fairfax Court, Ely, together with Henry Ashman
Photo: Ely Standard



Obituary

Jane Twinch

'One of my many memories of Jane is of her extreme neatness of person and mind. I cannot recall ever having seen a hair out of place.' So wrote Mrs Helen Palmer, a former Chairman of the Women's Association Central Executive Committee when paying tribute to Jane Twinch on Jane's retirement from the Women's Association staff in 1954. Everyone who knew Jane would agree with that comment.

Jane was born in Grahamstown, South Africa, and came to England in 1916. She married a year later, and in 1920 went to India with her husband. It was there that she heard about Toc H from Tubby and Pat Leonard. Returning to England, she became a member of Radlett branch in 1927, later moving to Altrincham branch in Cheshire and subsequently holding office as Area Pilot and Area Secretary in the North Western Area. Moving back to Hertfordshire, in 1935 Jane became Eastern Area Secretary. Between 1932 and 1940 Jane served on the Central Executive Committee of which she was Chairman for four years, and she was also LWH Festival Secretary for the Toc H Coming-of-Age Festival in 1936.

In 1944 Jane joined the Women's Association staff as General Secretary and for the next 10 years fulfilled her duties with orderliness and efficiency, and with loving devotion to the many demands made on those who fill this office.

On her retirement in 1954, Jane became increasingly involved in the various activities of her church, All Saints, Margaret Street, and started a very successful girls' club. She continued her links with Toc H through her

membership of St John's Wood branch. In 1970 Jane left London for the quieter surroundings of Haselbury Plucknett in Somerset where she died on 7 February.

Joyce Green

John Gwilym 'Jack' Molyneux died on 28 February. A leading member of Penrith branch and of the North Lakes District, Jack was awarded the MBE in 1972 for his services to the community.

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In November: W Charles Payne (Hitchin).

In December: Phyllis Dickie (Orpington), Ernest Lockhart (Sussex Area).

In February: Percy Ashton (St Annes & Southport), Elsie Brett (Portsmouth), Helen R Edwards (Dover), 'Jack' Molyneux (Penrith), Gwen H Morris (Amesbury), Allan Morton (Peterborough, Westwood), Norman G Price (Grantham), Harry Robinson (Grenoside), George Sinners (Acton & Garden Village), William A Turner (Wimbledon), Frank Weston (Peterborough, Westwood).

In March: Clifford B Charles (Porlock), Gwendoline A Lee (Watford), Kathleen Owen (West Central), James Park (St Annes), George Smethurst (St Annes), Rev Donald S Simmons (South West Area), Harold C Tilzey (Yeovil).

We give thanks for their lives.

A tribute to Kathleen Owen will be published in the June issue. A Memorial Service was held on Friday 18 April at All Hallows. Kathleen's family have requested that any memorial donations should be sent to the Tubby Clayton Memorial Fund, of which Kathleen was a trustee. The address is: Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Welcome Point

The following branches elected new members during March:

- 13—South Lines District.
- 4—West Essex District.
- 3—Aylestone (m), Clacton-on-Sea (w), Elmstead (j), Gillingham (m), Milford-on-Sea (j).
- 2—Bala (w), Budleigh Salterton (m), Cowes (w), Dittons (j), Lampeter (j), Norwich District.
- 1—Alston (m), Aylsham (m), Barkingside (m), Broadwater (w), Cleveland District, Corby (j), Corwen (m), Cromer (w), Durdham Down (m), Edmonton (m), Fleet (j), Hackney (j), Holland-on-Sea (w), Holme Valley (j), Inner London District, Leicester (w), Medway & Sheppey District, Northallerton (j), Nottingham City (m), Ochils District, Penrith (w), Sevenoaks (w), Southampton District, Sprowston (m), Staxton/Flixton (m), Walton (m), Woking (j).

Welcome to 71 new members.

Want a Polish penfriend?

Andrew Szmaya, a piano student in Kalisz, would like a British penfriend.

Andrew is a Christian and would like to know more about Britain and Christianity over here.

This is an excellent opportunity for us to build a friendship across one of the greatest barriers separating man from man—one not to be missed.

Would those wishing to correspond with Andrew please get in touch with the Public Relations Office.

LETTERS

China's new society

I believe Frank Field is right in saying (*Point Three*, March) that 'our acquisitive and materialistic way of life is not the good life'. But then he adds: 'as the Chinese already seem to have found in their New Society'.

Is Frank not aware that China's 'New Society' is a dictatorship run by a small self-perpetuating clique, that this clique believes in materialism and actively persecutes religious believers? Could he comment please?

Peter Johnson *Beckenham, Kent*

I do indeed know the drawbacks to the Chinese type of society—from our point of view. But from the Chinese point of view, people are much better looked after and educated than ever before. The grass-roots approach brings much practical good out of the conjunction of brains and brawn, tradition and experiment; and gives a great boost to those previously 'condemned' to live in the country.

I was taking a general view of the situation in a developing country (China, as you know, was bypassed by the Industrial Revolution).

On the last point: is Chairman Mao any worse than Chiang Kai-shek—good Methodist that he was, the old pirate! And what does Peter Johnson mean by 'religious believers'? Christians only? If so, remember that persecution has always been good for the stamina of the Church!

Frank Field *Polegate, Sussex*

Homes for the elderly

The Englishman's home is his castle. But this can and has become reduced to absurdity. The increased longevity due to modern medical practice causes hundreds of thousands of homes to be occupied by single persons, many of whom are desperately lonely.

Meanwhile young married couples are condemned to homelessness or to live and bring up families in one room, to the detriment of the children's future.

Toc H used to be a frontier movement. Here is a problem on a national scale in which we could become pioneers once again, and consequently advertise the Movement.

First of all propaganda is needed, pointing out the advantages of giving up some insular sovereignty for a real home and companionship in community dwellings.

Secondly our financial wizards should get their grey matter working on how to set up such communal homes. If the Abbeyfield Society's target is to open one home per week and it can boast of opening an average of 35 homes per year, and over 600 homes since 1959, why does Toc H find it so difficult?

Several types of homes are required but I recommend the Clock House Abingdon type as being the least expensive for the resident. All the work is done communally, and when you consider what one would have to pay for a housekeeper and a gardener, at least £5 a week is knocked off the expenses per resident and the residents get the atmosphere of independence which we want to preserve.

I first introduced this subject in *Point Three* in December 1972. The Central Council in their 'wisdom' turned down a resolution put up from the West Country. Rumours about efforts to start something have filtered through but nothing seems to have been accomplished. The many letters from correspondents since show the deep concern of a great number of members. So I return to the controversy and ask someone to pull their finger out and give a lead. If indeed we still have leaders. *Action for the Seventies!*

B D Brown *Charmouth, Dorset*

New Life

I am greatly encouraged by the unmistakable note of new life which runs through the last few

numbers of *Point Three*, especially at the Annual Conference. . . . I feel sure that the revival of Toc H is due to the fact that it now seems to be unequivocally Christ-centred. In my day so many of its leaders seemed to be over-anxious to stress that being a bridge movement the Christian basis must be played down, given 'a low profile' in modern jargon.

Harold Howe *Sevenoaks, Kent*

Something to smile about

This rise is no fault of Toc H but an expected detail in common with all newsprint.

For me *Point Three* is more important than my dentures (and that's going some).

As you say, it is the only means of communication in Toc H in which all the Family can share. If all members read it, discussed it in the branch and lodged it finally at some office or church notice board, professional waiting-rooms, etc, I think our 'net' would be the heavier.

I have never had a refusal at such places when first seeking consent to lodge *Point Three*.

Buy it, read it, think about it. A great rag indeed!

Ken W Faggetter
Weymouth, Dorset

Vote of confidence

From a project volunteer:

Many thanks for the March edition of *Point Three*. I enclose herewith cheque to cover yearly subscription for the magazine.

I have no intention of losing touch with Toc H. True, my connection with Toc H to date is purely as a summer volunteer on projects; however, I've found so much satisfaction and enjoyment, not to mention the number of new friends I've made on these projects, that I hope to keep in contact for many years to come.

Phil Markham
Liversedge, West Yorkshire

Small advertisements

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the first of the month. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p) to *Point Three* magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT. Telephone: 0296 623911.

Wanted: Land-Rover for Lepra.

To celebrate 40 years' association with Toc H. Will 2,000 readers send me a book of Green Shield stamps please: it could make all the difference. Peter Pedrick, 8 Sands Road, Paignton, Devon.

'Fair deals from Freddy'. For all good new and used bargains. Agricultural and industrial equipment—cars—boats—caravans—bikes—mo'bikes—scooters—machine tools—buildings—electricals—generators: Toc H Builder, Freddy Way, 59 Arden Road, Henley-in-Arden, Solihull, West Midlands B95 5LN. Cards or letters for details (no phone).

Holidays: Hap-Hap-Healthy Henley-in-Arden with 'Black is Beautiful' Beaudesert are delightful for visiting, in the centre of everything. Steeped in history for miles around—seven English inns keep you fed and watered. Book early to avoid dismay. Agent: Freddy Way.

Stowe Community Service visits more than 400 old people weekly. Green Shield stamps, Pink stamps, Co-op stamps and all brands of cigarette coupons desperately needed for hot-water units and better heating. All gifts, however small, will be put to lasting use. Stowe Community Service, Buckingham MK18 5EH (a registered charity).

Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, HOTEL JACOBS, Bалиestraat 1, Bruges 8000. Telephone: (050) 398 31/32.

Plymouth (10 miles): Four-berth caravan, all amenities. S.a.c. Oldnall, 23 Cedar Road, Bournville, Bb30 1ur.

Guernsey: Good homely fare with Toc H family. H & C in rooms. Mid-week bookings. Bed and breakfast and evening meal £15 per week. Mrs P Saunders, Petherton, Tertre Lane, Vale. Phone (STD) 0481 44756.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc, gold stamped to your requirements. Details: NORTHERN NOVELTIES, Bradford BD1 3HE.

Caravan to let. Sandy Bay, Exmouth, Devon. Discombe, 77 High Street, Crediton, Devon.

Warden Manor for your summer holiday. Historic house, set in unspoilt country, near sea. Happy Toc H fellowship. Open 5 July to 13 September. Spring Bank Holiday (23 to 27 May). £13 to £15.75 weekly (children £11.50) plus VAT; includes full board (four meals daily). All games (tennis, table tennis, putting, etc.) and entertainments are free. Contact John Cole, Warden Manor, Eastchurch, Nr. Sheerness, Kent.

STATIONERY

In view of rising cost of paper etc, we are reluctantly forced to raise our prices. New prices are:

Notepaper
for District/branch/group
A5—£1 per 100 sheets
Envelopes
to match, with symbol
60p per 100
Postcards with symbol
60p per 100
Duplicating Paper
Headed
A4—£1.25 per 100
Press Release
A4—£1.25 per 100

PUBLICITY PACK

Toc H is one of the few organisations nowadays which does not get the publicity it deserves.

To underline its belief in good publicity, the Public Relations Office is sending a free copy of the new Publicity Pack (advertised in the March issue) to every branch.

Extra copies will be 50p. This just covers printing costs and does not include the work which went into its preparation.

WANTED

material for ballet costumes, ribbon, artificial flowers etc

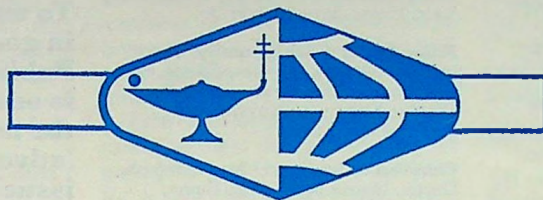
Is there any draper or haberdasher who could offer cut-price material to The Chelmsford Dancers, an amateur troupe dancing at the Toc H Westminster Festival and at the Cotswold Festival in September? Offers gratefully received by: Miss Elizabeth Twistington Higgins, 82 Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 4DB.

OPEN INVITATION to a Jubilee Garden Party at

Toc H Headquarters
Wendover
Saturday 21 June 1975
from 2.30 pm onwards
Sideshowes, entertain-
ment, exhibition of
Toc H activity, light
refreshments

Admission free
(Parking facilities in
station car park)
This is essentially a
friendly get-together,
but any funds raised
will be donated to the
Toc H Diamond Jubilee Fund

Something to be proud of ... that's Toc H



And if you're proud to belong, you'll also be proud to wear one of the new Toc H badges, in black and gold.

They're in two fittings—pin-and-clutch or bar-and-pin—and will be on sale, price 15p, at the Diamond Jubilee Festival on 31 May.

If you *can't* be there, place your branch's order now for delivery in June, provided stocks last (there may be some delay if initial stocks run out).



To: Toc H Publications Dept, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT

Please send pin-and-clutch badges and bar-and-pin badges at 15p each,

for which we enclose £.....

(Allow two months for delivery if initial stocks run out)

Branch

Name

Address

Post code